

10/025,105
60130-1201; 01MRA0360**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 15, 16 and 26-28 stand finally rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith (U.S. Patent No. 4,033,605). The Examiner contends that Smith teaches a vehicle suspension system including a pair of bands that interact with a pair of bushings positioned about and contacting the stabilizer bar to prevent lateral movement of the stabilizer bar. The Examiner contends that Applicant's invention is anticipated. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Smith does not disclose a band that interacts with a bushing to prevent lateral movement of a stabilizer bar. Smith discloses a suspension system 10 including a rubber bushing 105 received on a bar 23 having an enlarged portion 107. A u-shaped bracket 111 secured to a connector plate 109 by fasteners 113 compresses the bushing 105. Sleeves 115 extend outwardly from the enlarged portion 107 and are sealed to the bar 23 to prevent moisture penetration by clamps 117.

The Examiner states that Smith teaches the claimed invention, and therefore the claimed invention is anticipated. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

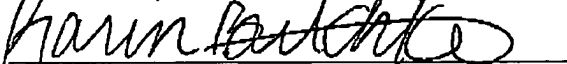
Smith does not disclose the claimed invention. In Smith, sleeves 115 extend from the rubber bushing 105 and are sealed to the bar 23, and the clamps 117 prevent moisture penetration. Smith does not disclose that the clamps 117 interact with the sleeves 115 to prevent lateral movement of the bar 23 as claimed. Smith only teaches that the clamps 117 prevent moisture penetration (column 4, lines 32 to 46). Smith does not disclose the claimed invention, and Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Thus, claims 1-16 and 18-28 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.

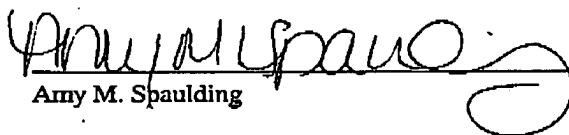


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 703-872-9306 on December 13, 2004.



Amy M. Spaulding